(b) whether the State Government has sent any proposal to the Central Government for protection and promotion of this sanctuary;

(c) if so, the reasons for not sanctioning this proposal;

(d) whether Government are concerned about the protection of this bird sanctuary; and

(e) if so, by when the required funds will be provided for its protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. However, the world Heritage Committee had expressed concern over the situation of Keoladeo National Park resulting from inadequate release of water to maintain the wetland ecosystem of the site.

(b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" the State Government every year submits Annual Plan of Operation (APO) to the Ministry for necessary technical and financial assistance. The details of funds released during last three years for Keoladeo National Park are as below:—

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Year	Funds Released
2002-2003	27.50
2003-2004	17.31
2004-2005	52.92

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The funds are released regularly every year.

Forestry projects with external aid

543. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eight forestry projects with external aid are being implemented in different States;

(b) if so, the target/goal set for each project and benefits likely to be achieved; and

(c) the likely dates of completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (A) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There are eight Externally Aided Forestry Projects being implemented in seven States. The details are at Statement (*See* Below)

The broad objectives of these projects include ecological restoration and biological upgradation of forests and community lands, bridging the gap between demand and supply of forest products, reduction of poverty and augmentation of earning capacity of poor people by sustainable use of land and other natural resources through participatory process of planning and management.

Statement

On going Externally Aided Forestry Projects

(Rs. In crores)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of Project	Funding Agency	Project period	Project cost
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Community Forestry Project	World Bank	2002-03 to 2006-07	653
2.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	JBIC	1997-98 to 2002-03 (project period extended)	499.20
3.	Punjab	Punjab Afforestation Project-II	JBIC	2002-03 to 2006 07	264
4.	Karnataka	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	JBIC	1997-98 to 2002-03 (project period is extended)	566
5.	Haryana	Integrated Natural Resource Management and Poverty Reduction Project	JBIC	2004-05 to 2009-10	286
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh Forest Sector Reforms Project	DFID (U.K.)	2002-03 to 2006 07	55

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Indo-German Changer Eco-development Project	Govt. of Germany	1999-2000 to 2004-05	30
8.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project	JBIC	2003-04 to 2008-09	442.14

JBIC - Japan Bank for International Cooperation
DFID - Department for International Development, U.K.

Powers to Gram Panchayats for conservation of forests

†544. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to bring about a legal provision after reviewing the position of giving more powers to Gram Panchayats for conservation of forests and traditional rights of tribals living in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken/to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) In so far as the Ministry of Environment and Forests is concerned, there is no move to bring about a legal provision for giving powers to Gram Panchayats for conservation of forests or for assigning rights to tribals therein.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Declaration of Indira Gandhi National Park as Tiger Reserve

545. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Tamil Nadu has demanded to declare the Indira Gandhi National Park and Sanctuary in the Annamalai range in Pollachi as Tiger Reserve;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.